Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 INR-07 L-03 SP-02 /030 W

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P 160800Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5810

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 3487

FOR THIBAULT, NEA/INS

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ECON,CE

SUBJECT: PL 480 TITLE I RICE AND CCC WHEAT

REF (A) COLOMBO 3485, (B) COLOMBO 3477

1. RE GSL'S REQUEST FOR 10,000 METRIC TON OF PL-480 RICE ON GRANT BASIS (REFTEL A), WE THINK GSL REALLY WANTS SOME PL 480 RICE BUT IS TRULY CONCERNED THAT IT MAY NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO LOCAL CONSUMERS EVEN WHEN GIVEN AWAY FREE IN GOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM. IN EFFORT TO MINIMIZE GSL'S RISK, WE WERE WONDERING IF SOME ARRANGE-MENT COULD BE MADE WHEREBY ANY RICE FROM 10,000 MT SHIPMENT REJECTED BY CONSUMERS COULD BE TRANSHIPPED TO INDIA OR BANGLADESH FOR INCLUSION IN THEIR PL 480 PROGRAMS. TO INSURE THERE WOULD BE ON ADDITIONAL COSTS TO USG OR FINAL RECIPIENT COUNTRY, GSL WOULD HAVE TO AGREE TO PAY HANDLING COSTS IN SRI LANKA AND ANY EXCESS SHIPPING COST OVER DIRECT SHIPMENT TO INDIA OR BANGLADESH. WE DO NOT KNOW IF SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT IS POSSIBLE BUT WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR TESTING THE WATERS WITH USDA AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES. IF YOU FIND THIS IDEA IS FEASIBLE AT WASHINGTON END, WE WILL TRY IS OUT ON GSL.

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2. YOU WILL NOTE THAT FROM REFTEL B THAT FOOD COMMISSIONER

HAS AKSED FOR TENDERS ON 40,000 MT OF WHAT FLOUR FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER DELIVERY. CCC CREDIT WOULD GREATLY HELP US SUPPLIERS TO GET THIS BUSINESS. HAVE YOU DETECTED ANY CHANGE IN CCC'S ATTITUDE TOWARD SRI LANKA GIVEN OUR GOOD WHEAT CROP AND FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS? REED

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: RICE, WHEAT, PL 480 TITLE 1, FOOD ASSISTANCE

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